

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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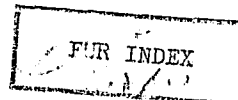
TO: Department of State

755.11/4-850

FROM: BRUSSELS 494 April 8, 1950 1 enclosure

REF: Royal question

SUBJECT: LEOPOLD'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 7, 1950



There is enclosed the translation and French text of the communiqué which was issued by the Secretary of the King on April 8, 1950.

Chalmers B. Wood
Chalmers B. Wood,
Third Secretary of Embassy

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Enclosure:

French text of Leopold's statement which appeared in Le Soir of April 8, 1950 and English translation thereof.

CDSCON:mh
File 261.1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>J. L. Smith</u>	DATE <u>NOV 19 1982</u>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

Communiqué issued by the Secretary of the King which appeared in Le Soir of April 8, 1950.

M. van Zeeland, formateur, a eu le jeudi 6 avril, dans la soirée, un entretien avec le secrétaire du Roi, au sujet de la situation. Le Secrétaire du Roi a été chargé par le Roi de déclarer:

"La crise politique menace de se prolonger pour le plus grand dommage du pays.

"Le Roi confirme la déclaration qu'il a faite aux présidents des Chambres législatives dans laquelle il a rappelé qu'il appartient au Parlement de mettre un terme à la crise en se prononçant sur la question de savoir s'il y a lieu ou non de constater la fin de l'impossibilité de régner en application de la loi du 19 juillet 1945. Quelle que soit la décision du Parlement, le Roi a fait connaître sa volonté de s'incliner devant celle-ci.

"Aussi longtemps que la décision du Parlement ne sera pas intervenue, le Roi ne pourrait prendre aucune décision de caractère politique.

"Ce ne sera que si le Parlement constate la fin de l'impossibilité de régner que le Roi, ainsi rétabli dans ses prérogatives, appréciera avec le gouvernement responsable les dispositions que commandera éventuellement la situation en s'inspirant du seul intérêt du pays."

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Translation

Mr. van Zeeland, who has been charged with forming a government, had a conversation with the Secretary of the King concerning the situation on Tuesday April 6 in the evening. The Secretary of the King was asked by the King to declare:

"The political crisis threatens to prolong itself and cause the greatest harm to the country.

"The King confirms the declaration which he made to the presidents of the legislative Chambers in which he recalled that it is up to Parliament to put an end to the crisis by making a decision on the question of whether or not it is possible to put an end to the impossibility of reigning by the application of the law of July 19, 1945.

"Whatever may be the decision of the Parliament, the King has clearly expressed his desire to be governed by it.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure to Brussels Despatch No.
494 of April 8, 1950

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"As long as the decision of Parliament has not been made the King can make no political decision.

"It will only be if Parliament affirms the end of the impossibility of reigning that the King, thus reestablished in his prerogatives, would consider with the responsible government whatever steps the situation would require having only in mind the interest of the country."